

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-7, 10, and 11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4 and 7 are amended. Claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 are canceled. Claims 1 and 7 are independent.

Drawing Objections

The legend --Conventional Art-- has been added to Figs. 8 and 9. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to Figs. 8 and 9 is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 11 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,300,931 to Someya et al. (hereinafter Someya). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

As amended, independent claim 1 now recites finding a second characteristic by adopting, as the first characteristic, a characteristic that makes the input signal and the conversion signal virtually equal to each other. Applicant respectfully submits that this feature is not disclosed in Someya.

As amended, independent claim 7 recites a control section for generating a digital signal, which is supplied to the conversion section exclusively from an input signal. Claim 7 further recites that a conversion process is applied to the digital signal when the digital signal is exclusively supplied to the conversion section. Applicant respectfully submits that Someya fails to disclose these features.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 7 are allowable for the reasons discussed above. Applicant further submits that claims 4-6, 10 and 11 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 7.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Jason Rhodes, Registration No. 47,305 at (703) 205-8000 in Northern Virginia.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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DRA/JWR/mpe

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FIG. 8
CONVENTIONAL ART

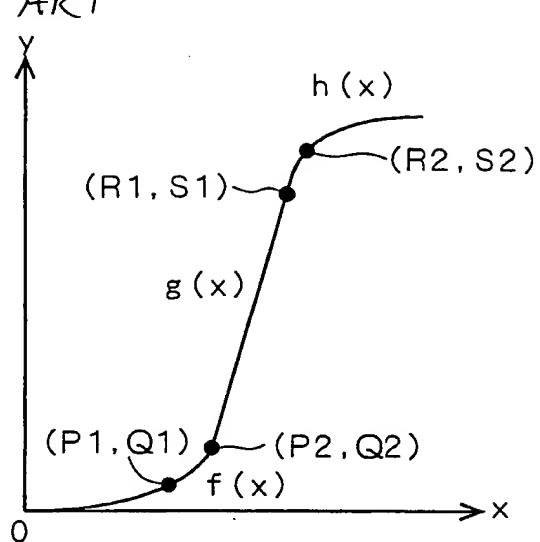


FIG. 9
CONVENTIONAL ART

